

SCIENCE

And Technology Program



Theme Area: Environmental Resources

Program Area: Aquatic Ecology

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Project Title: Ecology of Western Reservoirs

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Abstract: As populations and land and resource use patterns continue to change at a rapid pace in the Western United States, it becomes increasingly important to document how such shifts affect available water resources. Reclamation's mission has been changing over the past several years to encompass all issues related to water, not just hydropower, storage and flood-control. Decisions concerning modifications to reservoir/river operations need to be made with a sound knowledge of how those systems will respond, and in many cases pro-active approaches to management will provide the best long-term results. Studies concerning how reservoir/river systems operate ecologically are increasingly being done on broader scales such as the watershed. Evaluation of how operations, resource and land use patterns affect Reclamation's systems will provide the necessary tools to make informed management decisions concerning present and future operations. Studies are being developed in cooperation with numerous state and federal agencies including, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Utah Department of Natural Resources, USGS/CRD-MESC, Clark County, City of Las Vegas, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Montana Power, Arizona Game and Fish and several area and regional Reclamation offices.

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